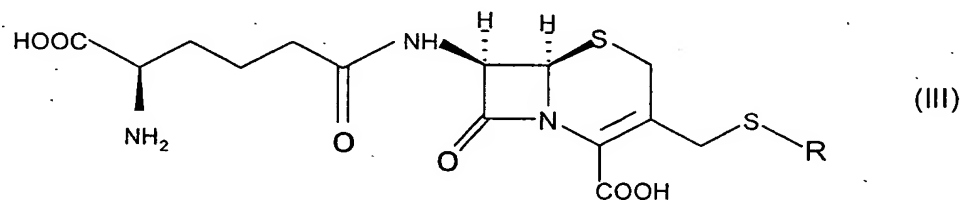
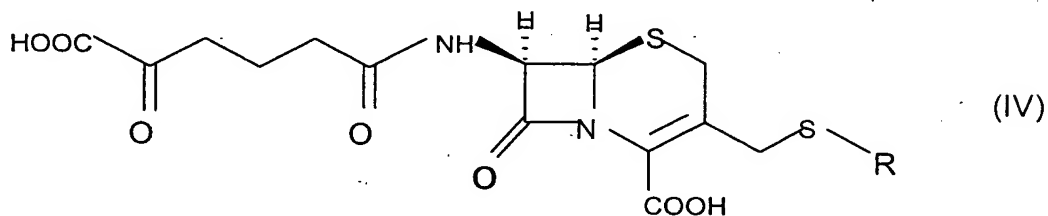


Abstract

A process for preparing cephalosporanic acid derivatives comprises the steps of enzymatically converting a 3-thiolated cephalosporin C compound of formula III:-



into a 3-thiolated- α -ketoadipyl-7-aminocephalosporanic acid derivative of formula IV:



wherein R is a heterocyclic group comprising at least a nitrogen atom.

Compounds of formula IV are used in the preparation of cephalosporin C antibiotics and derivatives thereof.